



February 13, 2008 – Volume 4, Issue 4

Thank you for reading The Conaway Chronicle, a weekly review of my activities in Congress. This newsletter is to let you know what's going on in Washington and what important issues are being debated in Congress.

President's FY2008 Budget

Last week, the President sent his proposed budget to Congress. His budget addresses the urgent need to take steps toward reforming our entitlement programs to ensure that our children and grandchildren have a secure retirement. Failing to reform these programs will cause massive tax hikes for hard working Americans and puts Medicare and Social Security at risk of extinction. The budget also provides funding for our troops fighting in the Wars in Iraq and Afghanistan by increasing ground combat capabilities, developing readiness for future threats, and improving the quality of life for our troops and their families.

It is time for Congress to begin making hard decisions about spending. The President's budget proposes to either reduce or terminate 151 current government programs, saving over \$18 billion. It is of vital importance that we gain control of the deficit and live within our means so that we quit adding debt onto the shoulders of future generations. I look forward to examining this proposal over the next few weeks as the Budget Committee begins hearings on the issue.

Economic Stimulus Package to be Signed by President

Last week, Congress passed an economic stimulus package, which President Bush is set to sign today. The final version expands to include certain disabled veterans and low income seniors, and explicitly denies credit to anyone who does not include a valid Social Security number on their tax return. This will deny rebates to anyone who is not a legal resident of the United States.



While the economy in West Texas remains strong and the unemployment rate remains low, the economy of the nation as a whole is gradually slowing. To give the economy a temporary boost, the President has worked with Congress to construct this more than \$150 billion economic stimulus package that will give folks money that is already theirs in the form of tax rebates. We must act carefully to ensure that we create short-term growth without causing unnecessary long-term damage, as a package such as this could be counterproductive if it is not focused in the right areas and isn't properly timed.

While I am pleased that my colleagues were able to work with the President in a bipartisan manner to form this plan, more than just a tax rebate is expected from the federal government to help boost our economy. We must make the current tax rates permanent and employ other forms of real tax reform.

House GOP Calls for Earmark Reform

Last week House Republicans made a stern call for immediate earmark reform only to have it rejected by our Democratic counterparts. The proposal called for an

Tell a Friend

Please use this form to forward this message to up to five of your friends.

Your Name:

Your E-mail Address:

Your Comments:

Friend E-mail 1:

Friend E-mail 2:

Friend E-mail 3:

immediate earmark moratorium, while a bipartisan committee develops a better system for dealing with direct Member input into the spending process. Congress has made a habit of abusing its ability to request funds for special projects, or earmarks, and has, in turn, lost the trust of the American people. When the Democrats took control of Congress in 2007, they promised to curtail earmark abuse and bring transparency and responsibility back to Washington. Yet when Republicans forced a vote on the earmark moratorium Thursday, Democrats hypocritically shot down the motion. Along with my Republican colleagues, I will continue to demand action and reform to restore fiscal responsibility in the halls of Congress.

Protecting our Military

Late last month, the Berkeley, California City Council passed a resolution stating that the U.S. Marine Corps "is not welcome in the city, and if recruiters choose to stay, they do so as uninvited and unwelcome intruders."



Last week, I expressed my support for a bill that would send a strong message of condemnation to the City of Berkeley, California for its decision to ban the U.S. Marine Corps from recruiting within city limits. The Semper Par Act would withdraw all earmark funding in the 2008 spending package, which totals over \$2 million, that would have otherwise gone to the City of Berkeley, and shift those funds to the Marine Corps to be used to recruit new marines. At a time when our young men and women are risking their lives on the frontlines every day for all Americans, including those in the city of Berkeley, the un-American actions of the Berkeley City Council are nothing short of deplorable. Their comments have insulted our troops and have offended Americans across the country. The members of the City Council must be held accountable for their words and actions and I am proud to support legislation doing just that.

The Conaway Chronicle will be issued every week when Congress is in session. I hope that you will find it informative and will continue to stay informed with my recent legislative activities in Washington. In the meantime, if you have any questions, concerns or suggestions for future issues of the Conaway Chronicle, please visit the website at www.house.gov/conaway or don't hesitate to call me at (202) 225-3605. Check out my blog at www.conawayblog.com!

If you received this message in error, or you no longer wish to receive messages from the sender, you may [click here to unsubscribe](#).

[Home](#) | [Mike's Biography](#) | [Constituent Services](#) | [Issues Center](#) | [News Center](#) | [Kids Center](#) | [District 11](#) | [Privacy Promise](#)



Llano Regional Office
County Annex
104 W. Sandstone
Llano, TX 78643
phone: (325) 247-2826
fax: (325) 247-2676

Washington, D.C. Office
511 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
phone: (202) 225-3605
fax: (202) 225-1783

Odessa Office
City Hall
411 W. 8th Street, 5th Floor
Odessa, TX 79761
phone: (432) 331-9667
fax: (432) 332-6538
Toll Free in Texas
(866) 882-3811
E-mail Congressman Conaway

San Angelo, TX Office
33 Twohig, Suite 307
San Angelo, TX 76903
phone: (325) 659-4010
fax: (325) 659-4014

Brownwood Office
Brownwood City Hall
501 Center Ave.
Brownwood, TX 76801
phone: (325) 646-1950
fax: (325) 646-2979

Midland, TX Office
6 Desta Drive, Suite
2000
Midland, TX 79705
phone: (432) 687-2390
fax: (432) 687-0277

This mailing was prepared,
published
and mailed at taxpayer
expense. It is provided as a
service to 11th Congressional
District constituents.